March 1958
FOR RELEASE
MAR. 10, P. M.

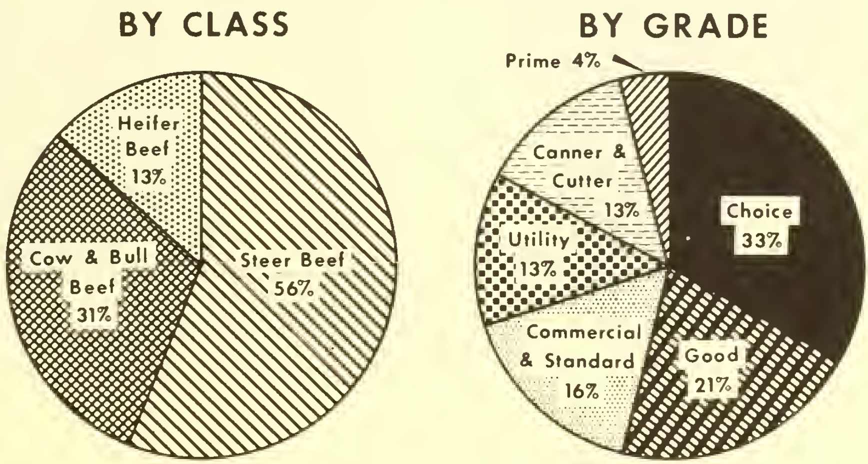
The LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-94

In this issue:
Beef Production by Grade--
Revised Data
Farmers' Production of Meat
for Home Use
Rank of States in Livestock, 1958

AMS

BEEF PRODUCTION BY CLASS AND BY GRADE, 1956



REVISED ESTIMATES, BASED ON FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, MARKETINGS BY GRADE AND OTHER DATA

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 4700-58 (2) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

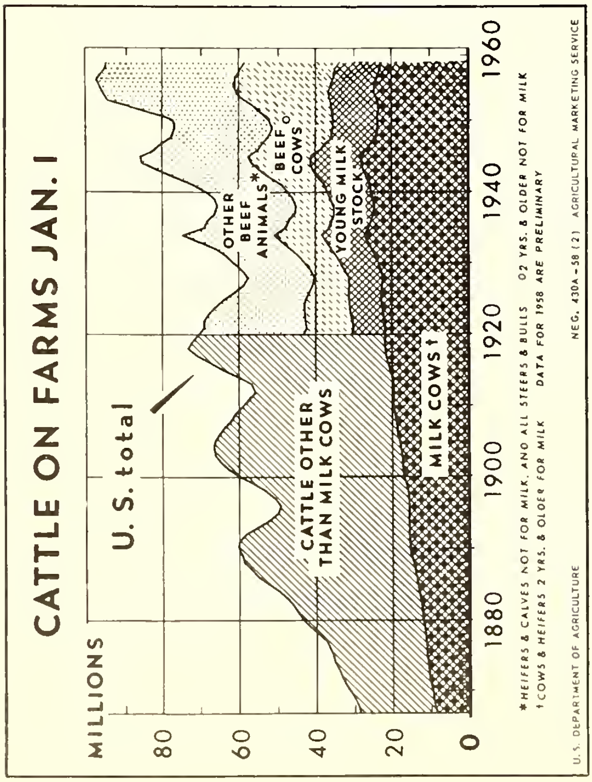
In 1956 a little more than two-thirds of all beef produced was steer and heifer beef. Most of the rest was cow beef.

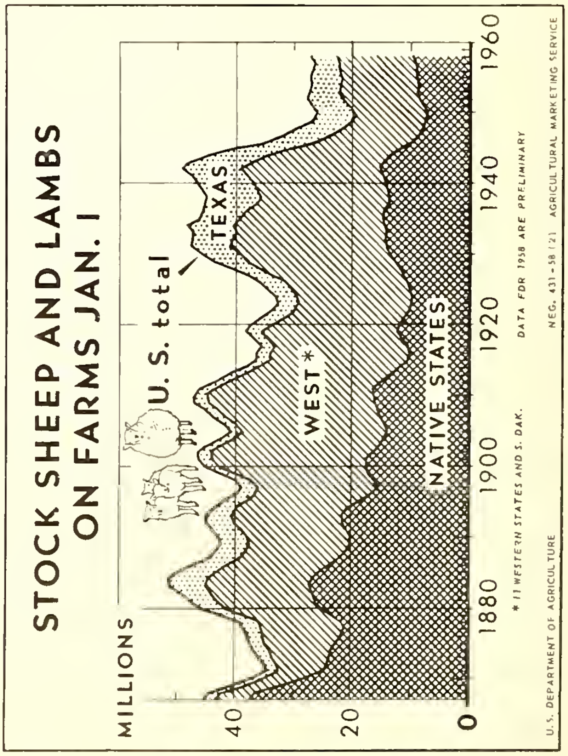
Because the largest part of steer and heifer beef is the equivalent of Good grade or better, close to 60 percent of total beef production in that year was of the three top grades.

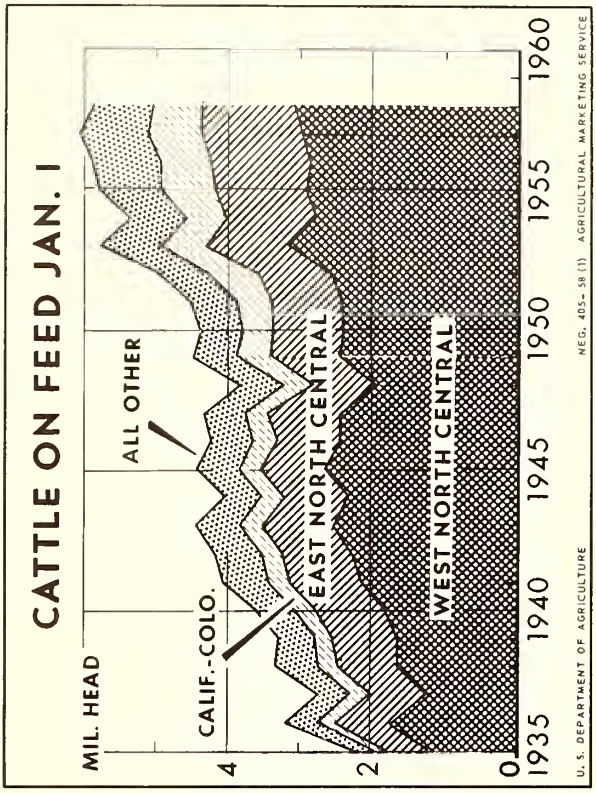
In 1958 cow slaughter and output of cow beef will be less than in 1956. Consequently, the proportions of steer and heifer beef, and of Good-Choice-Prime grades, will be somewhat higher than shown here for 1956.

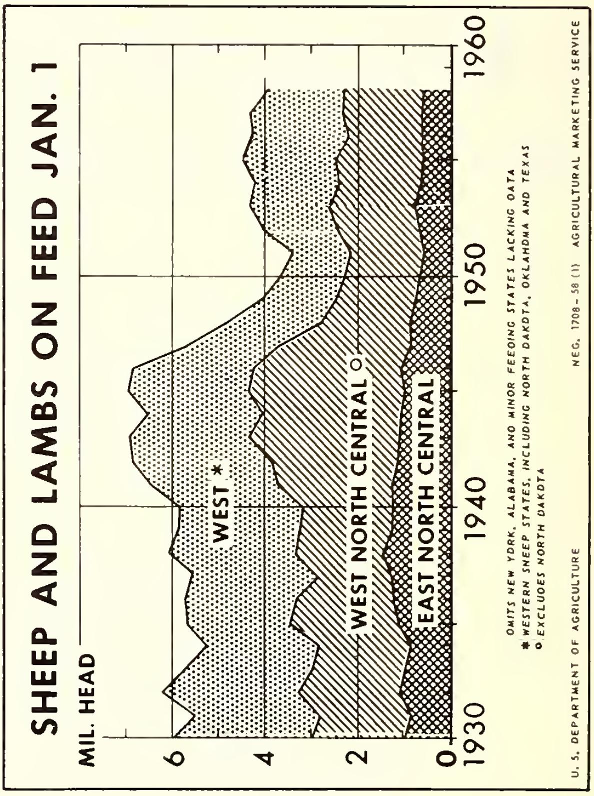
Estimates of grade distribution for 1956 are revisions of data published in the January 1958 issue of this Situation (see page 21).

Published bimonthly by
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


CATTLE ON FARMS JAN. 1
MILLIONS
U. S. total
CATTLE OTHER THAN MILK COWS
OTHER BEEF ANIMALS*
BEEF COWS°
YOUNG MILK STOCK
MILK COWS†
0
20
40
60
80
1880
1900
1920
1940
1960
* HEIFERS & CALVES NOT FOR MILK, AND ALL STEERS & BULLS ° 2 YRS. & OLDER NOT FOR MILK
† COWS & HEIFERS 2 YRS. & OLDER FOR MILK DATA FOR 1958 ARE PRELIMINARY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 430A-58 (2) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


STOCK SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS JAN. 1
MILLIONS
U. S. total
TEXAS
WEST*
NATIVE STATES
0
20
40
1880
1900
1920
1940
1960
* 11 WESTERN STATES AND S. DAK.
DATA FOR 1958 ARE PRELIMINARY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 431-58 (2) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


CATTLE ON FEED JAN. 1
MIL. HEAD
ALL OTHER
CALIF.-COLO.
EAST NORTH CENTRAL
WEST NORTH CENTRAL
0
2
4
1935
1940
1945
1950
1955
1960
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 405-58 (1) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED JAN. 1
MIL. HEAD
WEST *
WEST NORTH CENTRAL °
EAST NORTH CENTRAL
0
2
4
6
1930
1940
1950
1960
OMITS NEW YORK, ALABAMA, AND MINOR FEEDING STATES LACKING DATA
* WESTERN SHEEP STATES, INCLUDING NORTH DAKOTA, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS
° EXCLUDES NORTH DAKOTA
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 1708-58 (1) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 3, 1958

SUMMARY

Prospects for well sustained prices of cattle during 1958 and for several years were indicated by the reduction of a half million head in the inventory of cattle and calves on United States farms January 1, 1958. The decrease was second in a row, and this year's number was 2.8 million below the January 1956 peak.

Especially significant to the longer outlook was the 886,000 fewer cows on farms this January than last. Because of this, the calf crop will probably be smaller in 1958 than 1957, and any sizable rebuilding of cattle production is probably postponed until after 1959.

Milk cow numbers in January 1958 were a half million below 1957 and beef cows were down a third of a million.

Nevertheless, cattle inventories will probably be maintained unusually well during this cattle cycle, due to the sizable numbers of young stock being held to maturity. Following the excellent range and bumper feed crops in 1957, beef heifer and calf numbers were up slightly in January 1958, and the steer inventory was increased 400,000 head or 4.4 percent.

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary	3
Review and Outlook	5
New or Revised Series	15
Beef Production by Grade -- Revised Data	21
Farmers' Production of Meat for Home Use	23

For the same reason, annual cattle slaughter is expected to decrease less in 1958 and later than is usual for the present stage of the cattle cycle. Most or all the reduction in 1958 will be in cows and heifers slaughtered. Sustaining slaughter of mature cattle so well is at the expense of slaughter of calves. Calf slaughter may be reduced considerably in 1958.

Slaughter of fed cattle will again be large this year. After a later start than last year, slaughter will likely increase to a fairly high seasonal peak in late spring or early summer.

Prices of cattle as a whole are expected to average as high or higher in 1958 than 1957, but prices of fed cattle are likely to decline seasonally this spring. The reduction could be of some size, as it will begin from the highest level in 5 years, and prices this summer may be down close to or a little below a year before. Prices of stocker cattle may hold steady until spring and then decline seasonally during the summer and fall.

Numbers of stock sheep turned upward January 1, 1958 for the first time in three years. The increase over 1957 was 852,000 or 3 percent. As lambs on feed were down, the rise in the total sheep inventory was 2 percent.

Stock sheep numbers were higher in the North Central States, Oklahoma and Texas, and in a few other States such as South Carolina, Florida and Idaho.

Ewe lambs will likely again be retained to expand herds in 1958. Prices of lambs are expected to compare favorably with 1957. They may be higher during most months. Seasonal declines in fed cattle prices could limit to some extent the normal early-spring increase in lamb prices.

Hog slaughter this spring may average only slightly above last spring. Prices of hogs will remain relatively high until fall. A possible price dip in late winter or early spring would likely be followed by a seasonal advance to a high in late spring or early summer.

Total meat production in 1958 is expected to be about 1 percent below that of 1957. An increase in pork, occurring largely in the fall, is unlikely to offset decreases in the other three meats. Consumption per person is estimated at 154 pounds, 5 pounds less than in 1957. Retail prices of meat are likely to average a little higher than in 1957. Prices of Choice beef are expected to decline seasonally this spring, and of pork this fall.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Cattle Numbers Down Again

The inventory of cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1958 was estimated at 93,967,000 head. This is a reduction of 535,000 or 1/2 of 1 percent from January 1957 (table 1).

The reduction is the second in a row. Present numbers are almost 3 million less than the peak in 1956.

Eleven States increased their cattle inventories this January over last. Among them were Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Florida. Four States held numbers unchanged, and 33 made reductions. Most reductions were rather small. No State cut numbers more than 7 percent.

Cattle inventories declined again despite rising prices and improved range and grain feed conditions in 1957. Such a continued decline is normal in the cattle cycle. It results from cattlemen's unwillingness to make hasty management decisions, and from the slowness with which cattle reproduce.

Reductions in milk cows are another factor contributing to a downswing in the current cycle. Milk cow numbers in January 1958 were 559,000 below a year before and were the lowest in 30 years (table 2).

Total Cow Herd Down

The inventory of "beef" cows (those not for milk) also was lower this January. Only the Central Plains States of Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, and a few southern States, reported any substantial increase in beef cow inventories January 1, 1958.

The total cow herd (milk and beef combined) this January was 886,000 head smaller than last January. As a result, the calf crop in 1958 will likely be smaller than that of 1957. This would be the fourth year of reduction. The 1957 crop of 41,007,000 head was 4 percent less than the record 1954 crop of 42,601,000.

The reduced cow herd and smaller calf crop are obstacles to early increase in cattle production. While cattle inventories may be held approximately level the next year or two, a new upsurge in numbers must await an expansion of the breeding herd. This can take place only after increased numbers of heifer calves have been held for breeding and themselves calve. Based on the length of time normally required, cattle production cannot be expected to increase much until the early 1960's.

Table 1.--Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1950 to date

Year	Number on farms January 1					Index numbers, by groups (1947-49 = 100)			
	All cattle and calves	All sheep and lambs	Hogs	Horses and mules	Chickens	Total live-stock and poultry	Meat animals	Milk cattle	Poultry
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head				
1950	77,963	29,826	58,937	7,781	456,549	100	100	97	102
1951	82,083	30,633	62,269	7,036	430,988	104	105	96	96
1952	88,072	31,982	62,117	6,150	426,555	108	110	95	96
1953	94,241	31,900	51,755	5,403	398,158	109	112	97	90
1954	95,679	31,356	45,114	4,791	396,776	108	111	98	89
1955	96,592	31,582	50,474	4,309	390,708	110	114	96	88
1956	96,804	31,273	55,173	3,928	382,846	112	115	95	86
1957	94,502	30,840	51,703	3,574	390,137	109	112	93	89
1958 1/	93,967	31,328	51,559	3,348	370,475	108	111	91	84

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2.--Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1950 to date

Year	For milk			Not for milk				
	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Heifer calves	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Calves	Steers	Bulls
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1950	23,853	5,394	6,208	16,743	4,754	12,516	6,805	1,690
1951	23,568	5,493	6,337	18,526	5,122	14,319	7,029	1,689
1952	23,060	5,694	6,481	20,863	5,971	15,829	8,400	1,774
1953	23,549	5,893	6,479	23,291	6,535	17,440	9,147	1,907
1954	23,896	5,873	6,392	25,050	6,365	17,978	8,229	1,896
1955	23,462	5,786	6,113	25,659	6,514	18,785	8,444	1,829
1956	23,213	5,480	6,044	25,516	6,238	18,979	9,560	1,774
1957	22,916	5,377	5,977	24,754	6,017	18,621	9,105	1,735
1958 1/	22,357	5,332	5,923	24,427	6,094	18,673	9,505	1,656

1/ Preliminary.

Steer Numbers Up

While cow numbers are down, the inventory of most classes of younger cattle has been maintained well. Good grazing conditions, huge feed crops and rising prices of cattle in 1957 led to a big year-end carryover of steers. Their number was up 400,000 or 4.4 percent. Inventories of beef calves and heifers were up slightly.

Many of the steers were in range and pasture areas, as 3 percent fewer cattle were on feed this January (table 3). Placements on feed since January 1, however, probably have exceeded a year ago.

This tendency to retain more young cattle, which has been reported previously in this Situation, is one of the distinctive features of the present cattle cycle. It results from strong demand for beef, especially for that of the higher grades, and from expansion in cattle feeding. So long as it continues, annual slaughter of cattle will not drop as far, nor will prices rise as much, as in most cycles.

With fewer calves born and more retained to maturity, calf slaughter can be expected to decline.

1958 Cattle Slaughter to be Short of 1957

During much of 1957, cattle slaughter held near its record 1956 pace, then late in the year it dropped considerably. Cow slaughter especially was reduced in ending months as producers switched from liquidation to retention. In July, cow slaughter had set a record for the month. By December, it was down to the lowest December rate since 1952.

Total cattle slaughter in 1958 is expected to be less than in 1957. However, the reduction will be moderate, and will be mostly or wholly in cows and heifers slaughtered. Cow slaughter early in 1958 was considerably below a year earlier, and it will likely remain somewhat below at least through summer.

Heifer slaughter was unusually large in 1957, partly in reflection of recent trends toward feeding more heifers. But heifer slaughter also was off in December, and fewer heifers will be slaughtered in 1958 than 1957.

Slaughter of steers from their increased inventory will be sizable.

Calf slaughter probably will be reduced a good deal in 1958.

Table 3 .--Number of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs on feed January 1, by regions, 1950 to date

Cattle and calves

Year	Pennsylvania	North Central States: East North Central	North Central States: West N. Central: 3 Corn Belt 1/	North Central States: West N. Central: 4 Plains 2/	Texas and Oklahoma	Western States: California	Western States: Other Western	United States
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1950	88	976	1,491	909	216	196	514	4,390
1951	90	967	1,485	936	239	248	569	4,534
1952	90	1,009	1,510	1,041	241	383	687	4,961
1953	90	1,177	1,845	1,300	263	327	752	5,754
1954	86	1,221	1,675	1,107	199	350	726	5,364
1955	84	1,267	1,780	1,142	200	467	846	5,786
1956	82	1,364	1,806	1,046	214	489	879	5,880
1957	90	1,413	1,911	1,051	218	496	888	6,067
1958 3/	78	1,346	1,957	1,096	156	393	841	5,867

Sheep and lambs

Year	New York	Alabama	11 Corn Belt States 4/: East	11 Corn Belt States 4/: West	Western States 5/	United States
1950	20	---	623	1,649	1,352	3,644
1951	19	---	541	1,571	1,251	3,382
1952	21	---	642	1,761	1,614	4,038
1953	20	---	742	1,890	1,655	4,307
1954	21	---	647	1,763	1,846	4,277
1955	20	---	601	1,853	1,971	4,445
1956	20	42	641	1,562	1,996	4,261
1957	20	23	654	1,687	1,918	4,302
1958 3/	19	6	630	1,679	1,604	3,938

1/ Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri.
2/ North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ North Central States, except North Dakota.
5/ 8 Mountain States, 3 Pacific States, Texas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

Price Outlook Favorable

The continuing though gradual declines in cattle inventories and slaughter make for a favorable price outlook for producers. Prices of cattle in 1958 probably will average fully as high or a little higher than last year.

Prices of stocker cattle (cows and young stock) are likely to hold seasonally high until spring. Last year the usual summer-fall decline was prevented by strong demand resulting from exceptionally good grazing and large feed crops. Although no prediction of feed conditions is yet possible, a repetition of last year's almost continuous price uptrend is not likely. The typical seasonal decline is more probable.

Fed cattle prices edged higher early in 1958. In late February Choice steers at Chicago sold for about $28.00 per 100 pounds. This was the highest price for five years, and was $7.50 above February 1957 when prices were at their low for that year.

Higher prices early in 1958 reflected the later schedule of feeding and marketing than last year. The number of cattle on feed January 1, 1958 was 3 percent less than last year's record number, but a larger part had gone on feed late and were due for late marketing.

With new placements on feed large in January and February and fed cattle marketings smaller, a sizable build-up for spring and summer marketing seems to be taking place. A seasonal price decline of some size is highly probable. A downtrend this spring, opposite to the uptrend last spring, would narrow the difference between prices of the two years. By summer, prices of high grade fed steers could be down close to, or a little below, the prices of a year earlier.

More severe declines will likely be prevented by the limited slaughter of other livestock that is expected at the same time. Cow slaughter will be below last year, as will calf slaughter, and hog slaughter will be up only slightly.

The actual level of cattle prices in 1958 will be affected by the strength of consumer demand for beef. Rising unemployment had not caused sizable weakening of demand by the opening months of 1958. If it should continue, however, its influence would be noticeable. Any slippage in demand would be the first in almost a decade. In contrast with pork, beef has had the benefit of an almost continuous rise in demand for a number of years.

Stock Sheep Numbers Up

The number of stock sheep and lambs on farms January 1, 1958 was up 852,000 head or 3 percent from a year before. This was the largest gain since 1951 and second largest since 1942. Stock sheep inventories decreased steadily from 1942 to 1950 and have failed to recover very much since.

Once again, the area from the Plains eastward showed the greatest tendency to add to sheep herds. All the Plains States increased their numbers as did all Corn Belt States except Missouri. The South expanded slightly. In the West outside Texas the increase was only 1 percent.

Almost all the increase in inventories this January was in ewe lambs. That class expanded 604,000 or 16 percent during the past year. Eight percent fewer sheep and lambs were on feed this January. The total sheep inventory therefore was up 488,000 or $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

Expansion in sheep arose from the improved ranges and pastures and higher prices in 1957, together with incentive payments received for wool. Expansion seems likely to continue in 1958. Sheep and lamb slaughter in January and February was 16 percent below a year earlier. While this wide difference will not continue, the year's total slaughter is expected to be considerably below 1957.

Prices of slaughter lambs in late February were around $3.00 above a year before. Seasonal advances to the usual spring high may be limited by the decline in fed cattle prices that is in prospect. The year's average price is expected to be at least as high as last year's.

Hog Slaughter to Increase Little Until Fall

From November through February, hog slaughter failed to equal expectations based on last year's estimates of pig crop size. It has been increasingly clear that hog production in 1957 was in a transition between the downtrend of 1956 and the uptrend that is commencing in 1958. Slaughter of hogs consequently is also in a transition and its decrease is accentuated, as usual, by the shifts from speeded to slowed rates of marketing as well as by withholding of more gilts for breeding.

The 1957 fall pig crop was estimated at 2 percent larger than the previous year. Most or all the increase was in June and July births. Partly offsetting its effect on 1958 spring slaughter, however, will be the greater numbers of sows and gilts to be retained for fall farrowing. Moreover, with the consuming population larger and stocks of pork in cold storage February 1 down 75 million pounds or 36 percent from a year earlier, supplies of pork for consumption this spring and early summer will be relatively small. Based on this supply outlook, prices of hogs will probably reach a level second only to that of four years earlier.

Nevertheless, in the present transitional phase prices may not follow their normal seasonal pattern, which would call for a reduction in March followed by an advance later. In 1954, for instance, when hog production turned upward from a previous decline, hog prices reached their high in April, then decreased steadily. It would not be surprising if the high should be early again this year, though perhaps not as early as April.

The projected farrowing schedule reported last December by farmers in 10 States supports this possibility. Farmers then intended to boost December-February farrowings 10 percent, March-May farrowings only 5 percent.

Meat Production, Consumption to be Down in 1958

Production of all meat (beef, veal, lamb, mutton and pork) in 1958 is expected to be about 1 percent less than in 1957. A greater output of pork late in the year is not likely to offset the smaller production of other meats.

Percentage reduction will be greatest for veal. Slaughter of calves will be off considerably, because the milk cow herd is smaller and more beef calves will be held for expansion of herds.

Output of lamb will probably be down due to retention of ewe lambs for further build-up of sheep flocks.

Between January 1 and December 31 of 1957, cold storage stocks of meat were reduced 210 million pounds. This added more than one pound per person to meat consumption. A further reduction of stocks as source of consumption is hardly likely in 1958.

Supplies of meat for consumption per person are forecast at 154 pounds, 5 pounds less than last year. Reductions of 4 pounds or more in beef consumption, 1 pound in veal and a fraction of a pound in lamb and mutton may be counterbalanced only slightly by an increase of about a pound in pork (table 4).

The lower consumption in 1958 will end the 3-year span when meat supplies were exceptionally plentiful. Consumption per person set successive new record highs in 1955 and 1956, and it was almost as great in 1957 (see chart). However, the prospective consumption rate for 1958 is on a par with several years before 1955 when meat was considered abundant. A 154 or 155 pound consumption marked 1944, 1946, 1947, 1953 and 1954 -- all of them above average in meat supply.

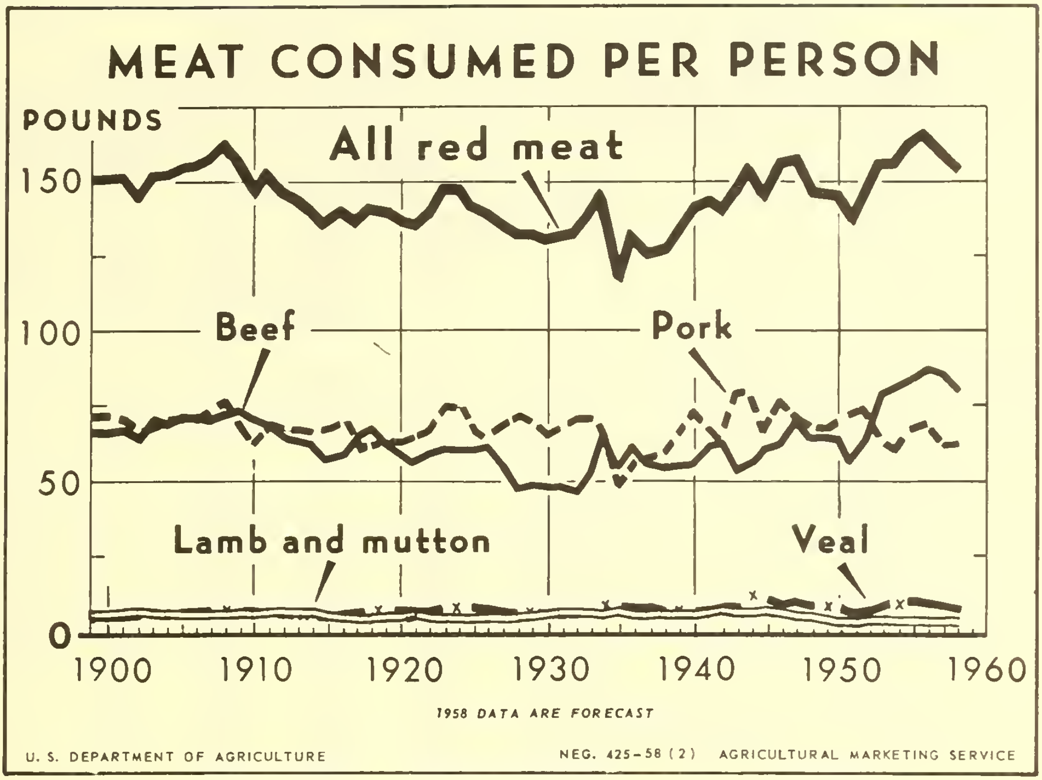
Moreover, 1958 could be the low point in the current downswing in meat consumption. Supplies of beef will likely decrease again in 1959, but pork production will increase.

Table 4.--Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1940-57 and forecast for 1958

Production 1/

Year	Red meats: Beef	Red meats: Veal	Red meats: Lamb and mutton	Red meats: Pork excluding lard	Red meats: Total	Poultry meat 2/	Red and poultry meat
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1952	9,650	1,169	648	11,527	22,994	4,238	27,232
1953	12,407	1,546	729	10,006	24,688	4,325	29,013
1954	12,963	1,647	734	9,870	25,214	4,613	29,827
1955	13,569	1,578	758	10,991	26,896	4,400	31,296
1956	14,462	1,632	741	11,221	28,056	5,214	33,270
1957 3/	14,200	1,520	710	10,500	26,930	5,400	32,330
1958 4/	13,800	1,400	675	10,900	26,775	5,600	32,375
	Consumption per person						
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1940	54.9	7.4	6.6	73.5	142.4	17.0	159.4
1941	60.9	7.6	6.8	68.4	143.7	18.3	162.0
1942	61.2	8.2	7.2	63.7	140.3	20.7	161.0
1943	53.3	8.2	6.4	78.9	146.8	25.7	172.5
1944	55.6	12.4	6.7	79.5	154.2	23.1	177.3
1945	59.4	11.9	7.3	66.6	145.2	25.1	170.3
1946	61.6	10.0	6.7	75.9	154.2	23.1	177.3
1947	69.6	10.8	5.3	69.6	155.3	21.7	177.0
1948	64.1	9.5	5.1	67.8	145.5	21.4	166.9
1949	63.9	8.9	4.1	67.7	144.6	22.9	167.5
1950	63.4	8.0	4.0	69.2	144.6	24.7	169.3
1951	56.1	6.6	3.4	71.9	138.0	26.1	164.1
1952	62.2	7.2	4.2	72.4	146.0	26.8	172.8
1953	77.6	9.5	4.7	63.5	155.3	26.7	182.0
1954	80.1	10.0	4.6	60.0	154.7	28.1	182.8
1955	82.0	9.4	4.6	66.8	162.8	26.4	189.2
1956	85.4	9.5	4.4	67.5	166.8	29.9	196.7
1957 3/	84.3	8.8	4.2	61.6	158.9	31.1	190.0
1958 4/	80	7.9	3.9	62.5	154	31.7	186

1/ Production of red meats is carcass weight equivalent of production from total United States slaughter.
2/ Chicken, including commercial broilers, and turkey, ready-to-cook (eviscerated) basis.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ Forecast.



Retail Meat Prices to Exceed 1957

Prices of meat at retail in 1958 will likely average higher than in 1957. There will, as usual, be seasonal changes. For the higher grades of beef a decline this spring will likely be followed by a fall upturn. Pork prices will probably remain close to or above early-1958 levels until mid-summer. After that date a considerable seasonal decline is likely.

Cattle, Beef Imports Up in 1957

As usually happens when U. S. prices rise, imports of cattle and beef increased during 1957. Cattle were brought in from Mexico throughout the year to stock the improved southwestern ranges. The year's total of 336,000 surpassed 1955 imports, which were the recent high. However, it was less than the rate just before the war (table 5).

Imports from Canada increased in late 1957 and totaled 391,000. This was the most since 1950, and exceeded prewar averages. The largest part of Canadian imports was feeder cattle, but some were heavy cattle for immediate slaughter.

Table 5.--Imports of cattle and of meat into the United States, average 1937-41, annual 1947 to date 1/

Period	Live cattle and calves: From Canada 2/	From Mexico 3/	From all countries	Meat: Product weight: Beef & veal	Pork	Carcass weight equivalent: Beef	Pork	Total meat
	Head	Head	Head	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Average:								
1937-41	244,425	374,473	619,705	17	130	214	40	254
1947	82,890	4/1,430	84,505	34	5/	64	5/	64
1948	461,679	---	461,679	215	1	351	1	360
1949	433,458	---	433,458	171	3	247	3	261
1950	460,895	---	460,969	210	32	338	33	384
1951	238,887	---	238,959	324	49	472	51	542
1952	12,784	127,279	140,461	284	62	429	71	506
1953	69,910	127,927	198,226	160	146	271	164	438
1954	85,939	---	86,056	126	171	225	184	412
1955	66,603	247,751	314,377	119	162	222	175	399
1956	49,028	110,256	159,365	112	140	204	151	356
1957	391,189	336,472	727,853	232	133	371	144	524

1/ Imports of live animals other than cattle are few.

2/ Effective February 25, 1952, the United States placed an embargo on the imports of live cattle from Canada due to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. This embargo was removed March 1, 1953.

3/ On December 27, 1946 an embargo was placed on imports of Mexican cattle due to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The embargo was removed September 1, 1952. Effective May 23, 1953 the United States imposed an embargo following another outbreak. This embargo was lifted January 1, 1955.

4/ Imports actually entered the United States in December 1946 after the customs office closed its books.

5/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

More complete data will be published in a later issue of this Situation.

Imports of beef increased considerably in 1957. Those of pork changed little.

Imports of cattle and beef are expected to stay relatively large in 1958 because of probable further declines in U. S. cattle slaughter and beef production. However, it is questionable whether as many cattle will be available from Canada in 1958 as in 1957, as Canadian demand for beef also is strong. Total beef imports may rise somewhat further this year.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads for Meat Widen Further in 1957

Retail prices of both pork and Choice beef increased in 1957 over 1956, but the net return to farmers failed to increase as much and the farm-to-retail price spread widened (table 6). The spread was a record high for each meat.

The price spread for Choice beef was especially wide early in 1957, when prices of fed cattle were low. By the fourth quarter, the spread was about in line with the same quarter of the two previous years. The spread for pork, on the other hand, was consistently wider in 1957 than in 1956.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Rank of States in Livestock Numbers, 1958

Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin remain unchallenged in their leadership in livestock numbers. Texas remains at the top in all cattle, in beef cows and all beef cattle, and in sheep. Iowa leads in hogs, Wisconsin in milk cows (tables 7 and 8).

Principal change in ranking over a year ago was Kansas' jump from ninth to fifth in total cattle numbers. South Dakota moved up to third spot in beef cows, replacing Oklahoma. Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida each moved up a notch in beef cow position. Each of those three southern States now has more beef cows than does California.

Until 1955, Florida had more beef cows than any other State east of the Mississippi River. Since that date, however, it has been outranked by Mississippi.

Table 6.- Beef and pork: Average retail price, farm-retail spread, farm value and farmer's share, 1947 to date

Beef (Choice grade)

Year	Retail price per pound	Farm-retail spread	Net farm value 1/	Farmer's share
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent
1947	61.8	17.6	44.2	72
1948	75.3	22.3	53.0	70
1949	68.4	20.2	48.2	70
1950	75.4	21.3	54.1	72
1951	88.2	22.4	65.8	75
1952	86.6	24.1	62.5	72
1953	69.1	25.3	43.8	63
1954	68.5	24.3	44.2	65
1955	67.5	25.3	42.2	63
1956	66.0	26.0	40.0	61
1957	70.6	28.2	42.4	60
	Pork, excluding lard			
1947	60.7	17.9	42.8	71
1948	61.7	20.0	41.7	68
1949	55.8	21.1	34.7	62
1950	55.1	21.1	34.0	62
1951	59.2	22.9	36.3	61
1952	57.5	23.4	34.1	59
1953	63.5	22.5	41.0	65
1954	64.8	23.8	41.0	63
1955	54.8	25.6	29.2	53
1956	52.1	25.0	27.1	52
1957	60.2	27.1	33.1	55

1/ Farm value of live animal of weight and grade necessary to produce one pound of meat products at retail, minus computed value of byproducts. Standard factors are 2.16 pounds of Choice grade beef steer or heifer and 2.13 pounds of live hog.

Compiled from Farm-Retail Spreads for Food Products, Marketing Research Division Misc. Pub. No. 740 and data published in the Marketing and Transportation Situation.

Table 7.--Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms, January 1, 1958

Rank	All cattle and calves		Beef cattle and calves (cattle not for milk)			
			Total		Beef cows 2 years and over	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Texas	7,736	Texas	6,571	Texas	3,604
2	Iowa	6,410	Iowa	4,836	Nebraska	1,412
3	Nebraska	4,675	Nebraska	4,026	South Dakota	1,230
4	Wisconsin	4,298	Kansas	3,345	Oklahoma	1,204
5	Kansas	4,032	South Dakota	2,768	Montana	1,126
6	Illinois	4,021	Illinois	2,748	Kansas	1,077
7	Minnesota	3,938	Missouri	2,639	Missouri	989
8	Missouri	3,866	Oklahoma	2,369	Mississippi	915
9	California	3,733	California	2,245	Iowa	904
10	South Dakota	3,294	Montana	2,147	Louisiana	853
11	Oklahoma	2,988	Colorado	1,667	Florida	815
12	Mississippi	2,487	Mississippi	1,658	California	809
13	Ohio	2,344	Florida	1,559	Colorado	688
14	Montana	2,294	Minnesota	1,509	Alabama	672
15	Indiana	2,217	Louisiana	1,373	Illinois	613
16	New York	2,175	Indiana	1,360	North Dakota	600
17	Florida	1,934	North Dakota	1,305	New Mexico	581
18	Colorado	1,910	Alabama	1,197	Arkansas	518
19	Louisiana	1,883	Wyoming	1,089	Wyoming	517
20	North Dakota	1,870	Oregon	1,067	Georgia	512
21	Pennsylvania	1,858	Georgia	1,040	Oregon	489
22	Alabama	1,816	Ohio	1,029	Idaho	378
23	Michigan	1,811	Idaho	986	Arizona	367
24	Kentucky	1,807	New Mexico	985	Virginia	350
25	Tennessee	1,736	Arkansas	977	Tennessee	349
26	Georgia	1,546	Kentucky	929	Indiana	339
27	Arkansas	1,507	Arizona	859	Kentucky	325
28	Oregon	1,412	Tennessee	815	Minnesota	287
29	Idaho	1,388	Virginia	760	Nevada	285
30	Virginia	1,382	Washington	681	Washington	245
31	Wyoming	1,151	Utah	533	Utah	244
32	Washington	1,133	Nevada	532	Ohio	232
33	New Mexico	1,056	Michigan	479	North Carolina	206
34	North Carolina	984	Wisconsin	474	South Carolina	180
35	Arizona	943	North Carolina	423	West Virginia	125
36	Utah	706	South Carolina	370	Wisconsin	96
37	South Carolina	626	Pennsylvania	325	Michigan	92
38	Nevada	567	West Virginia	285	Pennsylvania	76
39	West Virginia	546	Maryland	158	Maryland	58
40	Maryland	514	New York	128	New York	35
41	Vermont	441	Maine	25	Maine	8
42	New Jersey	220	New Jersey	20	Delaware	7
43	Maine	200	Vermont	20	New York	5
44	Massachusetts	161	Delaware	15	Vermont	4
45	Connecticut	160	Connecticut	10	Connecticut	2
46	New Hampshire	103	Massachusetts	10	Massachusetts	2
47	Delaware	65	New Hampshire	8	New Hampshire	2
48	Rhode Island	23	Rhode Island	1	Rhode Island	---
U. S. total		93,967		60,355		24,427

Table 8 .- Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms, January 1, 1958 and pigs saved 1957

Rank	Milk cows 2 years and over		All sheep and lambs		Number of pigs saved 1/	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Wisconsin	2,552	Texas	4,864	Iowa	19,264
2	Minnesota	1,527	Wyoming	2,174	Illinois	11,507
3	New York	1,438	California	1,866	Indiana	7,854
4	Iowa	1,067	Colorado	1,756	Missouri	6,490
5	Pennsylvania	1,039	Montana	1,691	Minnesota	5,984
6	California	955	Iowa	1,554	Ohio	4,884
7	Ohio	893	South Dakota	1,471	Wisconsin	3,583
8	Michigan	845	Utah	1,362	Nebraska	3,472
9	Missouri	845	Ohio	1,270	Georgia	2,590
10	Illinois	807	New Mexico	1,208	South Dakota	2,302
11	Texas	799	Idaho	1,121	North Carolina	2,136
12	Tennessee	654	Minnesota	988	Kentucky	2,064
13	Kentucky	641	Missouri	881	Tennessee	1,981
14	Indiana	564	Oregon	881	Alabama	1,589
15	Mississippi	558	Illinois	750	Texas	1,436
16	Kansas	464	Nebraska	739	Kansas	1,433
17	Virginia	427	Kansas	725	Michigan	1,261
18	Nebraska	424	North Dakota	678	Virginia	1,057
19	Oklahoma	389	Kentucky	623	Mississippi	915
20	North Carolina	379	Indiana	582	Pennsylvania	833
21	Alabama	376	Arizona	445	South Carolina	808
22	North Dakota	374	Nevada	434	North Dakota	666
23	Louisiana	345	Michigan	407	Oklahoma	661
24	Arkansas	343	Virginia	327	Florida	658
25	South Dakota	328	Tennessee	319	Arkansas	632
26	Georgia	326	West Virginia	301	Louisiana	576
27	Vermont	301	Wisconsin	299	California	528
28	Washington	289	Washington	267	Maryland	307
29	Maryland	248	Pennsylvania	254	Colorado	245
30	Idaho	238	Oklahoma	244	Oregon	242
31	Florida	223	New York	184	New York	224
32	Oregon	219	Mississippi	110	Washington	195
33	West Virginia	191	Louisiana	95	Montana	188
34	South Carolina	174	Alabama	83	New Jersey	186
35	Colorado	156	Arkansas	72	Idaho	173
36	New Jersey	152	North Carolina	61	West Virginia	170
37	Utah	112	Georgia	56	Massachusetts	145
38	Maine	110	Maryland	52	Utah	106
39	Massachusetts	109	Maine	42	New Mexico	63
40	Connecticut	108	New Jersey	18	Delaware	59
41	Montana	96	South Carolina	14	Wyoming	44
42	New Hampshire	63	Vermont	14	Arizona	42
43	Arizona	52	Massachusetts	12	Maine	29
44	New Mexico	50	Connecticut	10	Nevada	28
45	Wyoming	40	Florida	9	Connecticut	28
46	Delaware	34	New Hampshire	9	New Hampshire	17
47	Rhode Island	17	Delaware	4	Vermont	17
48	Nevada	16	Rhode Island	2	Rhode Island	13
U. S. total		22,357		31,328		89,685

1/ Total pigs saved from spring and fall pig crops of 1957.

Value of Wool, Mohair up in 1957

Wool production, shorn and pulled, totaled 269 million pounds, grease basis, in 1957, 4 percent below 1956 output. Shorn wool production was down 3.2 million pounds and pulled wool 6.9 million pounds from a year earlier. The 1956 and 1957 wool estimates were revised upward 3 and 4 percent respectively from previous estimates on the basis of data filed in connection with the incentive payment program and special surveys in a number of States. These indicated that substantially more lambs were shorn in those two years than in previous years (table 9).

The value of shorn wool produced in 1957 was 128 million dollars, up 21 percent from a year earlier, as substantially higher prices more than offset the slight reduction in clip. From April 1957 through January 1958 prices received for wool averaged about 10 cents per pound above the 44.2 cents, grease basis, received in the April 1956-March 1957 marketing year.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 1957 was the same as in 1956 -- 28.5 million head -- but the average weight per fleece was 8.26 pounds compared with 8.37 pounds in 1956. Shorn wool production increased in the northern and eastern regions of the United States and declined in the South and West. The 17 percent decline in pulled wool production was brought about by reduced slaughter, a smaller percentage of skins pulled, and lighter average weights per skin.

Mohair production in the 7 leading States in 1957 is estimated at 19.1 million pounds, up 5 percent from 1956, as the number of goats clipped and the average clip both showed gains over a year earlier. This increase in production, together with a 4.2 cent higher price per pound, brought a 10 percent rise in value of mohair produced (table 10).

The value-of-production figures for wool do not include incentive payments authorized by the National Wool Act of 1954, which were designed to stimulate yearly production of 300 million pounds of shorn wool. Payments of nearly 50 million dollars were made in 1957 for the 1956-57 marketing year. Of this total over 42 million dollars was paid on shorn wool and 7 million on lambs under provisions relating to pulled wool. Payments will be made this summer on 1957-58 marketings. As the incentive level of 62 cents per pound is the same as a year earlier, and the average price received by producers is up sharply from a year ago, total incentive payments will be substantially smaller.

No payments have been made on mohair, as the price received has been above the incentive price.

Table 9.--Production, prices and income from wool,
United States, 1950-57

Year	Shorn wool: Number sheep shorn 1/	Shorn wool: Weight per fleece	Shorn wool: Production	Shorn wool: Price per pound 2/	Shorn wool: Cash receipts	Pulled wool production
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars	1,000 pounds
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1	134,623	32,400
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1	221,456	25,900
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1	126,327	33,600
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	3/54.9	127,514	42,200
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	3/53.2	125,538	43,500
1955	27,383	8.55	234,058	42.6	99,813	41,600
1956	28,502	8.37	238,569	44.2	105,544	40,500
1957 4/	28,508	8.26	235,366	5/54.4	128,052	33,600

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Average price received by farmers for the marketing season April through March.
3/ Includes an allowance for loan wool.
4/ Preliminary.
5/ Computed from State average prices for wool sold April 1957 through January 1958.

Table 10.--Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1950-57 1/

Year	Number goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production of mohair	Price per pound	Value
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,472	5.2	12,892	118.0	15,187
1952	2,287	5.3	12,215	96.3	11,763
1953	2,337	5.5	12,757	87.7	11,387
1954	2,618	5.6	14,578	72.4	10,549
1955	2,983	5.7	16,923	82.2	13,912
1956	3,164	5.8	18,233	84.4	15,383
1957 3/	3,246	5.9	19,072	88.6	16,895

1/ States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.
2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.
3/ Preliminary.

BEEF PRODUCTION BY GRADE -- REVISED DATA

by Earl E. Miller

Estimates of grade distribution for beef published in the January 1958 issue of the Livestock and Meat Situation have been revised. A recheck with the data on gradings by USDA for earlier years, which included 92 percent of the total beef output in 1945, 94 percent in 1952 and 50 percent in 1956, together with newly obtained data for 1957, indicates that estimates of grade distribution for carcasses understated the proportion of the higher grades. Revisions in calculations were made primarily in grade estimates for non-fed steer and heifer carcasses. In addition to expanded feeding of cattle to high grade, it has become clear that sizable numbers of steers and heifers not classed as "fed" also reach a fairly high slaughter grade.

The revised estimates of grade distribution are given in table 11 for 1947, 1952 and 1956. These replace the data in the right hand columns of table 9 in the January 1958 issue of this Situation. For 1956, 4 percent of all beef is estimated to have been Prime grade, 33 percent Choice, 21 percent Good, 16 percent Commercial and Standard, 13 percent Utility, and 13 percent Cutter and Canner grades (also see cover chart).

Estimates previously presented of the percentage of beef that is fed and the percentage by class were not changed by the revisions in grade distribution.

Table 11.--Composition of the beef supply: Estimated percentage of annual production that is fed, and percentage distribution by class and by grade, 1945-56

Year	Total production 1/	Fed beef		Percentage of total beef by class			Percentage of total beef by grade 3/					
		Quantity	Percentage of total	Steer	Heifer	Cow 2/	Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial and Standard	Utility	Canner and Cutter
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1945	10,280	3,980	38.7	51.0	9.7	39.3						
1946	9,378	3,427	36.5	51.6	10.3	38.1						
1947	10,432	3,560	34.1	49.2	11.3	39.5	4.3	26.7	19.8	18.0	16.6	14.6
1948	9,075	3,382	37.3	49.3	10.2	40.5						
1949	9,439	4,604	48.8	58.4	9.8	31.8						
1950	9,534	4,440	46.6	57.3	9.2	33.5						
1951	8,837	4,332	49.0	56.8	8.9	34.3						
1952	9,650	4,870	50.5	59.5	9.4	31.1	6.0	36.2	18.7	14.0	12.7	12.4
1953	12,407	5,254	42.3	58.7	9.7	31.6						
1954	12,963	5,319	41.0	55.3	11.9	32.8						
1955	13,568	6,068	44.7	54.2	12.7	33.1						
1956	14,462	6,536	45.2	56.4	12.8	30.8	4.2	32.8	21.1	15.9	12.9	13.1

1/ Includes farm.

2/ Includes bull and stag, quantities of which are small.

3/ Revised estimates of grade distribution. Grade designations are those in effect since June 1, 1956. Data for all years refer to current grades.

FARMERS' PRODUCTION OF MEAT FOR HOME USE

A little more than half of the meat supply of U. S. farm families comes from their own livestock. Farmers haven't yet swung to buying all their meat "in town" as they now do so many other foods and services.

Most farmers still eat home-produced meat because they have convenient refrigeration facilities for storing it. Cold storage lockers at central locker plants were the first facility to be introduced. They came into general use during the 1930's. The home freezer became popular after the war. Some farm families now both own a freezer and rent a locker.

In 1954, 64 percent of all farm families had a freezer or locker, or both. In all regions except the South more than 75 percent were so equipped. In the South only 44 percent had such refrigeration (table 12). 1/

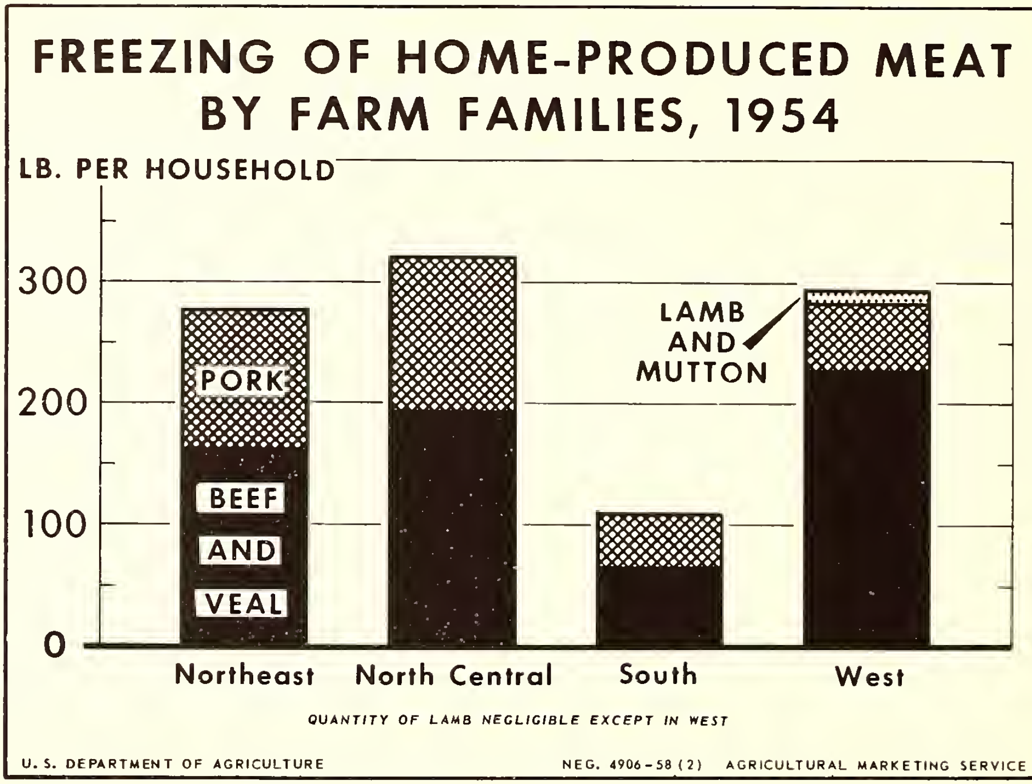
Much more beef than pork is frozen. Annual freezing of beef per farm household in 1954 ranged from a 65 pound average in the South to 227 pounds in the West (table 6 and chart). Freezing of pork also is substantial, however. It varied from 42 pounds in the South to 129 pounds in the North Central States. These are averages for all farm families. Average quantities for those families having a freezer or locker are higher.

Home-Freezing Adds to Beef Consumption

Freezing serves especially well for preservation of beef. In doing so it fills a need of long standing. Previously beef could be preserved on farms only by canning. Storage of pork, on the other hand, has always been possible by curing.

In all regions except the South, more farm households now produce beef than pork for home use, and they produce a larger quantity of beef than pork. More than half of farm families in the Northeast, North Central and West produce beef or veal, and the average quantity (for all farms) exceeds 200 pounds a year. A similar rate for pork is found only in the South. However, because pork outweighs beef so much in the South, national averages still show a little more pork than beef as being produced for home use on farms (table 13).

1/ Data are taken from "Food Production for Home Use by Households in the United States — by Region," Household Food Consumption Survey Report No. 12, USDA, Jan. 1958.



But this near-equality in production of beef and pork is a sharp change from earlier years. Before the arrival of refrigeration for farmers, much more pork than beef was produced at home for farm family use. According to rough estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service, farm consumption of home-produced beef, per person, has about trebled since the early 1920's, but that of pork has decreased about 20 percent.

Without doubt, freezing of meat by non-farm families also has become substantial, and it too is greater for beef than pork. Hence the new home refrigeration facilities acquired in recent years, both on farms and elsewhere, have contributed appreciably to nation-wide expansion of demand for beef.

Little Canning of Meat

Canning of meat, laborious but effective, was once a common practice on farms. Only one farm family in seven canned meat or poultry in 1954. For those canning the quantity was sizable, but the average for all families amounted to only 5 quarts.

Table 12.- Freezing and canning of home-produced meat on farms, by region, 1954

Item	Unit	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
Freezing:						
Percentage of farm households having freezer or locker	Percent	64.4	76.7	83.0	44.0	78.9
Percentage freezing home-produced meat for home use						
Beef	Percent	38.7	45.1	52.5	24.2	48.7
Pork	Percent	32.4	32.1	46.6	22.7	20.7
Quantity frozen, per household 1/						
Beef and veal	Pounds	134.2	161.2	192.0	65.3	227.4
Pork	Pounds	82.7	115.7	128.7	42.2	54.5
All meat	Pounds	218.2	277.7	321.5	107.7	292.7
Canning:						
Percentage of farm households canning meat or poultry 2/	Percent	13.7	18.7	14.3	13.6	4.0
Quantity canned, per household 1/	Quarts	5.0	9.1	5.9	4.0	1.0

1/ Average for all households.

2/ Data not available for meat alone.

Table 13.--Production of meat for home use on farms, by region, 1954

Item	Unit	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
Production for home use						
Percentage of farm households producing						
Beef or veal	Percent	44.7	52.6	58.5	30.5	52.0
Pork	Percent	49.5	38.0	53.9	52.4	23.6
Any meat	Percent	66.3	60.4	72.3	63.7	59.5
Quantity per household 1/						
Beef and veal	Pounds	159.5	200.5	220.4	85.7	248.7
Pork	Pounds	180.4	146.2	175.5	210.9	63.2
All meat	Pounds	341.7	348.2	396.7	297.6	323.8
Home production as a percentage of total farm consumption 2/						
Beef	Percent	60	57	68	45	60
Pork	Percent	52	43	59	50	31
All meat 3/	Percent	49	45	56	43	46

1/ Average for all households. 2/ In spring of 1955. Data for 1954 not available. 3/ Percentage of total meat, including luncheon meat.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, October 1957 to date

Period	Commercially produced: Supply: Production	Supply: Beginning stocks	Supply: Imports	Distribution: Exports and shipments	Distribution: Ending stocks	Distribution: Military	Civilian consumption: Total	Civilian consumption: Per person 1/	Total 2/: Production	Total 2/: Civilian consumption: Total	Total 2/: Civilian consumption: Per person
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
1957											
October	1,266	105	51	5	108	30	1,279	7.6	---	---	---
November	1,067	108	30	5	131	27	1,042	6.1	---	---	---
December	1,063	131			134	29					
4th quarter	3,396	105			134	86					20.5
Year	13,831	244			134	348			14,200		84.3
1958											
January	1,210	134			135	31			---	---	---
February									---	---	---
March									---	---	---
1st quarter											
Veal:											
1957											
October	140	9	1	3/	11	4	135	.8	---	---	---
November	109	11	1	3/	11	3	107	.6	---	---	---
December	98	11			13	4			---	---	---
4th quarter	347	9			13	11					2
Year	1,435	20			13	48			1,520		8.8
1958											
January	106	13			12	4			---	---	---
February									---	---	---
March									---	---	---
1st quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
1957											
October	62	6	1	3/	6	3/	63	.4	---	---	---
November	50	6	3/	3/	5	3/	51	.3	---	---	---
December	53	5			5	1			---	---	---
4th quarter	165	6			5	1					1
Year	695	12			5	5			710		4.2
1958											
January	59	5			5	3/			---	---	---
February									---	---	---
March									---	---	---
1st quarter											
Pork:											
1957											
October	935	134	11	9	138	17	916	5.4	---	---	---
November	865	138	13	11	164	18	823	4.8	---	---	---
December	883	164			194	17			---	---	---
4th quarter	2,683	134			194	52					17
Year	9,580	280			194	213			10,500		61.6
1958											
January	892	194			217	15			---	---	---
February									---	---	---
March									---	---	---
1st quarter											
All meat:											
1957											
October	2,403	254	64	14	263	51	2,393	14.1	---	---	---
November	2,091	263	44	16	311	48	2,023	12.0	---	---	---
December	2,097	311			346	51			---	---	---
4th quarter	6,591	254			346	150					40.5
Year	25,541	556			346	614			26,930		158.9
1958											
January	2,267	346			369				---	---	---
February									---	---	---
March									---	---	---
1st quarter											

1/ Derived from Census estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies, unadjusted for underenumeration.
2/ Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.
3/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957 Year average or total	1957 February	1957 December	1958 January	1958 February
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	26.19	23.22	27.86	29.54	31.68
Choice	do.	23.83	20.57	25.98	26.82	27.54
Good	do.	21.66	18.88	24.08	24.57	24.93
Standard	do.	18.82	16.92	21.48	21.74	22.55
Commercial	do.	19.16	17.00	21.60	---	---
Utility	do.	16.53	14.66	18.23	19.01	20.24
All grades	do.	23.48	20.28	25.74	26.31	26.65
Omaha, all grades	do.	22.07	18.95	24.12	24.59	25.11
Sioux City, all grades	do.	22.12	19.06	24.25	24.59	24.39
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	14.83	12.86	16.12	17.03	17.81
Utility	do.	13.61	11.84	15.04	15.88	16.80
Canner and Cutter	do.	12.06	10.62	13.37	13.95	15.09
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	25.93	28.40	28.98	30.18	33.05
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	20.33	18.24	22.68	23.02	24.35
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	2/17.20	14.90	18.70	19.70	20.60
Calves	do.	2/18.60	17.30	20.90	22.20	23.40
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	17.32	15.96	18.06	18.46	19.03
180-200 pounds	do.	18.60	17.08	19.11	19.55	20.23
200-220 pounds	do.	18.93	17.38	19.25	19.69	20.54
220-240 pounds	do.	18.87	17.35	19.04	19.47	20.44
240-270 pounds	do.	18.55	17.00	18.44	18.87	20.04
270-300 pounds	do.	18.17	16.77	17.82	18.24	19.62
All weights	do.	18.28	17.17	18.64	19.11	20.12
8 markets 3/	do.	18.29	17.16	18.45	19.26	20.16
Sows, Chicago	do.	16.81	15.89	15.21	16.44	18.08
Price received by farmers	do.	2/17.80	16.30	17.90	18.50	19.70
Hog-corn price ratio 4/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		14.6	13.5	16.2	17.2	17.8
Price received by farmers, all hogs		15.4	13.7	18.2	19.9	20.6
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	7.19	8.40	7.28	9.17	9.50
Price received by farmers	do.	2/ 6.43	6.11	7.25	7.83	8.25
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	23.19	20.85	23.00	5/23.96	5/ 24.31
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	20.85	19.78	21.30	5/23.25	5/ 23.97
Price received by farmers	do.	2/19.80	18.40	20.50	21.60	22.00
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		278	249	294	308	324
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	39.35	34.75	42.83	44.78	45.05
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	44.95	38.74	48.16	50.42	49.78
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	20.77	19.77	21.15	21.68	22.37
Average per 100 pounds	do.	28.89	27.50	29.42	30.15	31.11
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	24.51	23.55	24.46	25.32	26.18
Average per 100 pounds	do.	34.52	33.16	34.45	35.66	36.87
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	21.98	20.77	22.09	22.99	23.80
Average per 100 pounds	do.	39.26	37.10	39.45	41.06	42.51
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	70.6	66.6	74.0	77.3	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	60.2	58.1	59.1	61.9	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		91.0	81.9	95.0	100.7	
Retail (1947-49=100) 6/		108.7	103.5	110.5	115.5	

1/ Average all weights and grades.
2/ Simple average.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Choice grade.
6/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957 Year average or total	1957 February	1957 December	1958 January	1958 February
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100)		121	111	111	126	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	5,441	178	608	341	
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,056	142	190	144	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	19,454	1,488	1,473	1,630	
Steers	do.	10,018	750	772	877	
Heifers	do.	2,980	281	209	249	
Cows	do.	6,051	433	466	477	
Bulls and stags	do.	404	24	27	26	
Calves	do.	7,324	550	569	547	
Sheep and lambs	do.	13,234	1,091	978	1,061	
Hogs	do.	60,682	4,985	5,523	5,531	
Percentage sows	Percent	10	5	7	6	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	992	1,011	1,019	1,032	
Calves	do.	214	208	188	212	
Sheep and lambs	do.	97	102	99	1,021	
Hogs	do.	236	233	238	2,362	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	552	566	563	575	
Veal, per head	do.	120	117	104	118	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	47	50	48	50	
Pork, per head	do.	133	131	133	133	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	56	56	57	56	
Lard, per head	do.	34	35	34	35	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	14	15	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	10,704	839	826	934	
Veal	do.	875	64	59	64	
Lamb and mutton	do.	617	54	47	52	
Pork	do.	8,043	650	742	737	
Lard	do.	2,080	173	189	193	
Commercial slaughter 1/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	26,184	1,999	1,979	2,202	
Calves	do.	11,859	910	911	904	
Sheep and lambs	do.	14,956	1,221	1,103	1,196	
Hogs	do.	72,601	5,995	6,608	6,714	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	13,831	1,081	1,063	1,210	
Veal	do.	1,435	107	98	106	
Lamb and mutton	do.	695	60	53	59	
Pork	do.	9,580	778	883	892	
Lard	do.	2,368	198	216	221	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	---	229	131	134	135
Veal	do.	---	18	11	13	12
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	10	5	5	5
Pork	do.	---	292	164	194	217
Total meat and meat products 2/	do.	---	617	370	403	429

1/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page No.
1	Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1950 to date	6
2	Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1950 to date	6
3	Number of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs on feed January 1, by regions, 1950 to date	8
4	Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1940-57 and forecast for 1958	12
5	Imports of cattle and of meat into the United States, average 1937-41, annual 1947 to date	14
6	Beef and pork: Average retail price, farm-retail spread, farm value and farmer's share, 1947 to date	16
7	Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms, January 1, 1958	17
8	Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms, January 1, 1958 and pigs saved 1957	18
9	Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1946-57	20

Continued -

LIST OF TABLES -- Continued

Table No.		Page No.
10	Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1946-57	20
11	Composition of the beef supply: Estimated percentage of annual production that is fed, and percentage distribution by class and by grade, 1945-56	22
12	Freezing and canning of home-produced meat on farms, by region, 1954	25
13	Production of meat for home use on farms, by region, 1954	26

Standard Summary Tables

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, October 1957 to date 27

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat 28

Selected marketing, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat 29

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here /___/ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)
Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Issue dates for the Livestock and Meat Situation are January, March, May, July, August, September, and November. The next issue is scheduled for release May 13, 1958.